

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

June 18, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Chelminiak, Deputy Mayor Robinson, and Councilmembers Lee, Nieuwenhuis, Robertson, Stokes, and Zahn

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., and declared recess to Executive Session for approximately 20 minutes to discuss the quasi-judicial process.

The meeting resumed at 6:29 p.m., with Mayor Chelminiak presiding.

2. Study Session

(a) Bellevue Smart Mobility Plan Update

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced staff's update on the Smart Mobility Plan, noting that the topic was last discussed with the Council in January.

Chris Long, Traffic Engineering Manager, said the Bellevue Smart City Plan identified six components: 1) connectivity, 2) water infrastructure, 3) buildings, 4) public safety, 5) energy, and 6) transportation. The 2018 Smart Mobility Plan is an implementation plan for the transportation elements. Mr. Long noted the Smart Mobility vision: Use innovation and partnerships to deploy emerging technologies that enhance the safety, sustainability, efficiency, and accessibility of Bellevue's transportation system. The Smart Mobility Plan initiatives are: 1) traffic management, 2) real-time traveler information, 3) data management, 4) electric vehicles, 5) autonomous and connected vehicles, and 6) shared mobility.

Mr. Long said the City is nearing the completion of its traffic camera and communications upgrade. He described the City's involvement with the Microsoft video analytics pilot program, which captures traffic data related to travel times and congestion and identifies safety issues. Microsoft has moved the program to its product development team, which is dedicated to creating a traffic engineering dashboard that can be used to monitor mobility performance.

Mr. Long described the new interface with NORCOM that alerts and allows staff to view an accident to determine whether there is a way to help manage traffic around the scene of the accident in a timely manner. The Eastgate Mobility Hub project is developing the future vision for the Eastgate Park and Ride facility, including the integration of transportation modes that currently do not have established pickup and drop-off locations (e.g., shuttles to office buildings, car and bike sharing).

Mr. Long noted that there will be an autonomous vehicle demonstration event with the Society of Automotive Engineers International at Bellevue College on September 22 and September 23.

Steve Marshall, Transportation Technology Partnership Manager, said the City filed for a grant earlier in the day from the Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) Initiative of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The three-year grant will help support the development of a flexible, electric, and autonomous CommutePool network (CPN). The total project cost is estimated at \$9 million, and the grant could provide approximately \$3 million.

Mr. Marshall said the grant application includes letters of support from 28 private and public partners. The program focuses on commute solutions for Bellevue and Kirkland employees and will provide a smartphone application, CommutePool network (CPN) platform, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and curb management with safe, convenient drop-off locations near employment sites. Mr. Marshall said staff is working with Luum, which provides a commute management platform, at no cost to the City. Additional project partners include King County Metro, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), University of Washington, University of California-Berkeley, local governments, and major employers.

Mayor Chelminiak noted a recent trip to Washington, D.C. He said U.S. Department of Transportation staff were familiar with Bellevue and the City's TIFIA (Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act) loan. He said Congressman Adam Smith, Congresswoman Suzan DelBene, and Senator Maria Cantwell offered to write letters supporting the City's ATCMTD grant application.

Councilmember Zahn said she is pleased with the partnerships reflected in the City's efforts. She anticipates that a variety of transportation options will increasingly serve individuals who do not drive, including the elderly. She expressed support for addressing curb management issues. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Marshall said individuals will be able to access services without the use of a smartphone. Ms. Zahn said she appreciates the focus on improving mobility for commuters and freight traffic through congested sections of I-405 and SR 167.

Councilmember Lee observed that technology partnerships will lead to collaborative and creative solutions.

Responding to Councilmember Stokes, Mr. Marshall said the grant application process includes a technical review by USDOT staff as well as a review by the Secretary of Transportation.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis expressed support for staff's efforts and noted the implications for economic development.

Lacey Jane Wolfe, Transportation Policy Advisor, introduced discussion regarding the development of the Smart Mobility Interest Statement. She said staff identified a number of topics the Council might want to include in the statement including public safety, public benefit, measurable outcomes, economic development, livability, transportation technology advancement, supportive regulatory framework, partnerships, and public engagement.

Councilmember Robertson suggested considering the potential uses of the interest statement, including to encourage economic development and partnerships and to submit with grant applications. She said the statement helps to reinforce the innovation culture and economy in Bellevue and will help guide staff's work on behalf of the City. Ms. Robertson noted the potential threat of electronic hacking related to autonomous vehicles. She suggested including language in the interest statement that highlights an integrated approach to transportation solutions that complement each other. She noted the importance of measurable outcomes that can be used to improve safety and to enhance the overall system on an ongoing basis.

Deputy Mayor Robinson said she wants to ensure that, as the City studies the use of autonomous vehicles, the Council will have a role in determining whether and how to move forward with the concept.

Mayor Chelminiak encouraged looking at how smart technology can improve the safety and efficiency of the transportation system. He would like Bellevue and the Eastside to be a leader in transportation technology advancement. He would like to see how smart technology can be integrated with the frequent transit network concept.

Councilmember Zahn commented on the value of quality of life impacts, predictability, enabling abundant transportation choices, connectivity, intelligent data, cutting edge innovation, accessible mobility, and the environmental stewardship component.

Councilmember Stokes concurred with the Mayor's comment that Bellevue and the Eastside can and should be a leader in transportation technology.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis suggested referencing best practices and lessons learned from other cities. He said it is important to address public benefit in the interest statement as well.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for including the concepts of safety, connectivity, economic development, and shared transportation. He encouraged staff to move forward with drafting the interest statement.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis suggested studying the potential for a bike share partnership. Mr. Marshall said that will be part of the Eastgate Mobility Hub project.

(b) Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 1 Construction

Patrick Foran, Director of Parks and Community Services, provided an update on the Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 1 construction. He highlighted past uses of the bay including as the winter home for the American Pacific whaling fleet from 1919-1942, a dance pavilion and park from 1910-1930, and Seattle ferry dock service from 1892-1920. The City acquired Wildwood Park in 1979 and the Downtown Park in the 1980s. From 1992 to 2007, the City acquired the Meydenbauer Bay waterfront including the two marinas, nine residences, and apartment properties.

The Meydenbauer Bay Park master planning process in 2010 reflected an interest in the cultural and historical heritage of the area, as well as the nationwide movement to reclaim and renovate waterfronts for public access and economic stimulus. The major components of the park are the ravine and beach, marina renovation and waterfront promenade, gateway and connection to Old Bellevue and Downtown, and environmental restoration. Mr. Foran highlighted elements of the Phase 1 design including the terracing of the property, Lake Washington Boulevard street frontage improvements, lawn and picnic areas, play area, waterfront promenade, swimming beach, and pedestrian pier. The historic whaling building will be renovated for kayak, canoe, and paddleboard rentals.

Mr. Foran said that daylighting the stream and other environmental improvements essentially eliminate direct drainage into the lake, improve the water quality, and enhance the salmon habitat. He highlighted additional elements of the park including public art, ceramic mosaics, and decorative guardrails depicting Native American, environmental, and cultural themes.

The construction of Phase 1 began in May 2017 and is anticipated to be completed by the end of this year. Mr. Foran presented photos of the construction site and park features. Future project phases will connect the waterfront to Main Street and the Downtown Park. The master plan approved by the Council established specific implementation principles, including that the park would be developed in phases.

Councilmember Robertson noted that the Parks and Community Services Board recommends funding for Phase 2 in the next budget.

(c) Bellevue Family 4th Celebration - 27th Anniversary

Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director, Parks and Community Services, said the 27th Annual Bellevue Family 4th Celebration will be held at the Downtown Park, in partnership with the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) and a number of community sponsors.

Cindy Shelton, Program Manager, commended the coordination and support of the community in producing the Family 4th Celebration. Primary partners include Kemper Development Company, PACCAR, Puget Sound Energy, Sound Transit, Bellevue Club, and Ascend Hospitality Group. The event features the Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the Sammamish High School choir will sing the national anthem. There will be a number of family activities and food vendors, as well as access to the Inspiration Playground in Downtown Park.

Mayor Chelminiak expressed appreciation for staff's work and for the community and private-sector event partners.

(d) Mini City Hall Update

[Item moved to Regular Session.]

3. Council Discussion of Upcoming Items

(a) Permanent Homeless Shelter Permitting Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA)

Mayor Chelminiak commented on how he envisions the discussion of the Permanent Homeless Shelter Permitting Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA) will move forward. He anticipates non-controversial wording changes as well as further discussion regarding buffers, the membership of the Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) Advisory Committee, and the permitting process (i.e., conditional use permit and development agreement options). Mr. Chelminiak said he asked staff to prepare three versions of the CUP process: 1) Process I land use decision, 2) Process II land use decision, or 3) a hybrid of the first two processes. He noted that he also spoke with staff about options to allow homeless shelters outright or to use only the development agreement approach. However, proposals will not be drafted for those potential options.

Councilmember Robertson said that she and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis anticipate offering specific proposals as well.

At 7:57 p.m., Mayor Chelminiak declared recess to the Regular Session.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
Assistant Director, City Clerk's Office

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